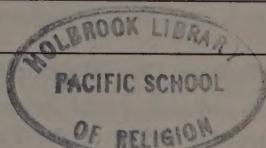


THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS LETTER

VOLUME VII
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FOREFATHERS' SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 20, 1960

These We Remember

With humble and grateful hearts we remember the God of our fathers and our God, who maketh all things new; and Jesus Christ, his Son, Lord of history and Prince of Glory; and the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, Guide unto truth that makes men free.

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We give thanks for the Pilgrims and the Puritans, eager followers of a new way of thought and life, who fared forth over a stormy sea unto a strange land, where in the Mayflower Compact they established a self-governing body politic, and where in covenants like that of the Salem church in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, they set up membership standards of mutual love and responsibility.

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We honor the hardy pioneers of our own faith and order, who reclaimed the western wilderness, builded homes and educated their children, turned territories into states, pushed on towards the great Pacific, and founded home missionary churches, lest a proud and expanding nation forget the Lord its God.

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We are grateful for our Congregational Christian evangelists and teachers, farmers and physicians, who trained the freedmen of the South and the Indians of the West; and who, on continents and isles of the sea, established mission stations and hospitals, where needy multitudes might hear tidings of redemption and release, and rise to walk in newness of life.

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We keep in remembrance our denominational leaders of the twentieth century in various walks of life and fields of endeavor, who have labored faithfully with no thought of lasting memorials, yet whose lives and contributions are worthy of permanent record.

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Revived by remembrance of days and deeds of old, and renewed through the Holy Spirit in the inner man, we highly resolve to serve the present age our calling to fulfill. Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the time of salvation. Would a modern Pilgrim be valiant 'gainst all disaster? Then let him in constancy follow his Master. In the name of God, Amen.

V.D.

THE FAGLEY MEMORIAL GIFT

The Society is proud and happy to announce the gift of a collection of thirty-six books from the library of Frederick L. Fagley. The list includes certain rare volumes like the Cambridge Platform which are deposited in the vault for safe keeping, and for study in the Library. The remainder occupy special shelves in the office of the Executive Secretary and may be borrowed. We are deeply indebted to Mrs. Fagley and the family for this memorial gift.

Forefathers' Day Worship Service

This ordinarily would follow the usual Sunday order with appropriate hymns, responses and prayers, the reading of the Thanksgiving Proclamation, and a relevant historical sermon. The church calendar might carry historical data, local and otherwise, and also the Mayflower Compact.

Here is a special order after the manner of our fathers: Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession, Scripture Lesson, Exposition of the Lesson, Psalm 100, Sermon, Psalm 23 (Bay Psalm Book), the Contribution, concluding Prayer, ending with the Benediction.

In recent years the Old South Church in Boston (1669) has held its Forefathers' Day Services in the Old South Meeting House (1730), maintained as a national historical shrine by the Old South Association. Sermon topics of the minister, Dr. Frederick M. Meek, have included these, "Five Grains of Corn," and "What Do We Remember?" The regular Sunday morning order has been used with explanatory historical notes inserted after each item. For example, THE PRELUDE: "The early Congregationalists said that the use of musical instruments was 'the work of the devil.' Around 1700 the viol and the bass viol came into use. In 1713 the first organ was installed in a Boston meeting house." THE SERMON: "As a mark of respect for scripture, the congregation stood while the minister 'gave out' the text for the day's sermon. The major part of the service was devoted to the sermon. With their emphasis on reason and intelligence, the early Congregationalists regarded the sermon as the high point of the worship. The minister had an hour glass on the pulpit which was turned as the sands of the full hour ran out. Sermons frequently lasted two and three hours. A tything man kept the people awake by using a long pole tipped with a brass knocker at one end to rap the sleeping 'males,' and tipped on the other end with a rabbit's foot or a feather for a more gentle persuasion of the sleeping 'females.'" The Society has a few copies of such Old South Worship Services available for loan.

From a Pilgrim Hymn

"He who would valiant be, 'gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy follow the Master,
There's no discouragement, shall make him once relent,
His first avowed intent, to be a pilgrim."

John Bunyan (1628-1688)

Historic Salem Church Covenant 1629

We Covenant with the Lord and one with another; and doe bynd our selves in the presence of God, to walke together in all his waies, according as he is pleased to reveale himself unto us in his blessed word of truth.

Biography and History

"This is to report my interest in the annual Minutes, and also in the suggestion of President Bradford that the Society concern itself increasingly with Biography as a subject in which every parish could contribute a name out of its own history, and also as a means of giving life to the values underneath our earlier history. Biography opens numberless windows."

Ola Elizabeth Winslow, a Governor of our Society and author of

JONATHAN EDWARDS, Pulitzer prize winner, and MASTER ROGER WILLIAMS

he Fagley Collection

Declaration of the Faith and Order Owned and Practiced in the Congregational Churches in England. London, 1659.
Guide to Christ, by Solomon Stoddard. Boston, 1717.
Platform of Church Discipline. Boston, 1808.
Platform of Church Discipline. Cambridge, 1671.
Apologe for the Oath of Allegiance... London, 1609.
Ecclesiastical History of New-England, 2 vols. Hartford, 1820.
Iah the Tishbite, by F. W. Krummacher. New York.
Outline of Congregationalism, by Rev. J. S. Fearnall. London, 1844.
The Cambridge and Saybrook Platforms of Church Discipline. Boston, 1829.
The Keyes of the Kingdome of Heaven... London, 1644.
The Life of Rev. David Brainerd, Evangelical Family Library, vol. vii. New York.
A Treatise on Religious Affections, by Rev. Jonathan Edwards. Evangelical Family Library, vol. iii. New York.
The Way of Congregational Churches Cleared, by John Cotton. London, 1648.
An Apology for the Liberties of the Churches in New England, by Samuel Mather. Oxford, 1896.
Dictionary of Congregational Usages and Principles, by Preston Cummings. Boston, 1852.
Guide to the Principles and Practice of the Congregational Churches of New England, by John Mitchell. Northampton, 1838.
Hand-book of Congregationalism, by Henry Martyn Dexter. Boston, 1880.
Hand-book of Congregationalism, by Rev. Samuel N. Jackson. Toronto, 1894.
Manual of Congregational Principles, by R. W. Dale. London, 1884.
Pocket Manual of Congregationalism, by A. Hastings Ross. Oberlin, 1889.
Survey of the Summe of Church Discipline, by Tho. Hooker. London, 1648.
View of Congregationalism, by George Punchard. Salem, 1840.
Vindication of the Government of the New England Churches, by John Wise. Boston, 1772.
Church Polity, its Spiritual Grounds and Congregational Superstructure, by Rev. A. Fleming. Boston, 1869.
Congregationalism: the Scripturality of its Polity, by G. N. Boardman. Chicago, 1888.
Story of New England, by Daniel Neal, 2 vols. London, 1720.
Book of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity, Book 1, ed. by R. W. Church. Oxford, 1896.
The Discipline, or the Constitution of the Congregational Churches. Portland, 1829.
The Discipline Fratrum Nov Anglorum. Boston, 1726.
Report on Congregationalism... Boston, 1846.
Services for Special Occasions, by Rev. Martyn Summerbell. Dayton, 1912.
The Ancient Platforms of the Congregational Churches of New England. Middletown, 1843.
The Cambridge and Saybrook Platforms of Church Discipline... Boston, 1829.
New England's Memorial... by Nathaniel Morton. Plymouth, 1826.
The Psalms of David, Imitated in the Language of the New Testament, by Isaac Watts. Sanbornton, N. H., 1831.
The Way of the Churches of Christ in New England... by J. Cotton. London, 1645.

Important Dates

Sunday, November 20 — Forefathers' Sunday
Monday, November 21 — Compact Day
Thursday, November 24 — Thanksgiving Day

Williston Walker's *Creeds and Platforms of Congregationalism* now available

A new printing of Williston Walker's notable book, *The Creeds and Platforms of Congregationalism*, is announced by the Pilgrim Press. First published in 1893, this collection of documents of primary value in Protestant history has been many years out of print. Its republication at this time, marking the one hundredth anniversary of the author's birth, is a monument to a great scholar and an eminent theologian, and a recognition of the increasing interest today in the literary milestones of Protestant history. Douglas Horton was asked by the publishers to prepare an Introduction for the new printing.

The book is attractively bound in sturdy paper covers and is priced at \$2.45 a copy. Copies may be ordered from local bookstores or direct from the Pilgrim Press.

125th Anniversary, Western Association in New York

This historic New York Association observed its 125th anniversary October 9, with due recognition of Rev. John Spencer, Revolutionary War hero who was sent by the Connecticut Missionary Society in 1807 to found a 10,000 square mile circuit-riding parish in Western New York. In nineteen years he established nearly 100 churches. For further information write J. Chester Molyneux, Moderator, 502 Winsor Street, Jamestown, N. Y.

Douglas Horton on William Ames

A few printed copies are available of Dr. Horton's address on William Ames (1576-1618) given at the 1959 Annual Meeting of the Society in Boston.

THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT

The Compact

In The Name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc.
Having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

Signed,
Cape Cod, November 11, 1620, Old Style
(November 21, New Style)

MONOGRAPHS

The Monograph Committee is being organized for its work.

Our first job is to list the Congregational Christian personalities who since 1900 have influenced our character as a denominational group.

Some will be ministers or pastors, some teachers or school administrators, some superintendents or general officers, some missionaries, some writers, some laymen, some laywomen. Some will have made their contributions on a local church level, some on a conference level, some on the national or international level. Some will have been identified with a cause, a principle, an institution or with public service. Who are these people? We must list them.

Then we must build a file on these personalities. We will want pictures, news stories, personal recollections as well as a professional record, and samples of their writings.

Finally, we will select individuals of competence and interest to use these files to write monographs or brochures on these personalities. These will be used on historical occasions and in denominational publications. Some will be prepared as publishing ventures. All will be available to students.

God speaks through personalities. We want to be able to recall what he has said through the choice lives we have been privileged to enjoy in our fellowship.

Rev. Oliver K. Black, Chairman
Second Church, Holyoke, Massachusetts

FOREFATHERS' DAY PRAYER

O God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away: age after age the living see thee, and find that of thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers, in their pilgrimage, walked by thy guidance, and rested on thy compassion. Still to us, their children, be thou the cloud by day, the fire by night; where but in thee have we a covert from the storm or shadow from the heat of life? In our manifold temptations, thou alone knowest and are ever nigh. In sorrow thy comfort reneweth our life. In prosperity and ease, it is thy spirit only that can wean us from pride and selfishness. O thou sole source of peace and righteousness, take now the veil from every heart and join us in one communion with thy prophets and saints, who have trusted in thee and have been left desolate. Not of our witness, but by thy tender mercy, hear our prayer; in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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